



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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News Release

**THE NATION'S ONLY CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL THREAT DETECTING K-9 BECOMES
THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department held a press conference today to unveil the newest tool in the HAZMAT's Detail's weapons detection arsenal. This one-of-a-kind tool is Johnny Ringo, a Labrador Retriever. Johnny Ringo and his handler, Detective Carpini are the only canine team in the country who can detect chemical and biological weapons. With over 235 hours of specialized chemical and biological training, Johnny Ringo can detect Category A and B Bioterrorism Agents and specific Centers for Disease Control listed chemical warfare agents. The Sheriff's Department acquired Johnny Ringo on October 16, 2009 from the country of Holland and will utilize his skills to locate and detect warfare agents before they are dispersed into the environment. Canines like Johnny Ringo have the ability to detect levels of chemical agents far below any current instrumentation available.

Currently, the Sheriff's Department has approximately 48 canines that are assigned to different units. There are 11 apprehension canines for the Special Enforcement Bureau, 2 Homicide contract canines, 6 for Narcotics Bureau, 2 for the Custody Division, 1 for HAZMAT, 5 for the Arson Explosives Detail, 2 for Operation Safe Streets Bureau, 13 for Transit Services Bureau, and 6 for Search and Rescue.

The Sheriff's Department HAZMAT Detail is a very unique unit made up of sworn and scientific personnel. The HAZMAT Detail undergoes thousands of hours of specialized training and utilize advanced equipment and tactics to prevent and respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents. They are always looking to improve their capabilities and this is just one way that the Department is accomplishing this goal.

"Johnny Ringo is a welcome addition to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. There's a new Deputy in town," said Sheriff Baca.